

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN SY, LE, SOPN
SUBJECT: SYRIA CALLS FOR TRYING SAAD HADDAD FOR TREASON

1. WHILE SYRIAN PRESS HAS INTERMITTENTLY RAISED THE QUESTION OF SAAD HADDAD AND THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS IN SOUTH LEBANON, PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THEM WAS SOMEWHAT MUTED WHILE ISRAEL CONTINUED TO OCCUPY SOUTH LEBANON. HOWEVER, WITH CHRISTIAN MILITIAS NOW BLOCKING ENTRY OF UNIFIL FORCES INTO THEIR AREAS, SYRIA HAS SEMI-OFFICIALLY DENOUNCED HADDAD FOR TREASON AND UNLEASHED PRESS WHICH HAS WRITTEN A NUMBER OF BLUNTLY WORDED EDITORIALS CALLING FOR SPEEDY DEPLOYMENT
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OF UNIFIL THROUGHOUT THE AREA BELOW THE LITANI AND THE PROMPT DESPATCH OF LEBANESE ARMY TROOPS THERE.

2. FOLLOWING BROADCAST OF A BRIEF REPORT ON DAMASCUS DOMESTIC SERVICE JUNE 17 QUOTING A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT SOURCE AS STATING THAT "THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS MAJOR SAAD HADDAD, WHO HAS DEALT WITH THE ISRAELI ENEMY,

TO BE AN OUTLAW AND THAT HE CAN ONLY BE TREATED AS SUCH..." DAMASCUS PRESS HAS LAUNCHED A BARRAGE OF EDITORIALS CON- DEMNING HADDAD AND HIS COLLEAGUES AS TRAITORS. SOME QUOTES FROM RECENT EDITORIALS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING DENUNCIATIONS: "SAAD HADDAD IS AT BEST AN AGENT FOR ISRAEL COLLABORATING WITH THE OCCUPIERS...IN OTHER WORDS HE HAS COMMITTED HIGH TREASON AND IS MUTINYING AND INSUBORDINATE...HIS CRIMINALITY HAS BEEN PROVEN."

3. SAME EDITORIALS URGE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH HADDAD ACCORDING TO LAW. "IT (GOL) IS THEREBY ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF LEBANESE WHO FEEL THAT THE ROAD TO SOVEREIGNTY PASSES THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF NATIONAL LAWS BASED ON AND APPLIED TO SIMILAR ACTIONS AND APPLICABLE TO THE ACTIONS OF SAAD HADDAD...REMAINING SILENT ABOUT THOSE COVERING UP FOR THEM (HADDAD AND SHIDIAC) NO LONGER SERVES THE NATIONAL INTEREST...OUR PEOPLE IN LEBANON DEMAND AND INSIST THAT A DRASTIC AND BOLD TRIAL BE STAGED FOR TRAITOR SAAD HADDAD AND HIS OUTLAW BAND, AND THAT PENAL- TIES SHOULD BE IMPOSED UPON THESE AGENTS. THIS IS PRIMARILY AND ULTIMATELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LEGAL LEBANESE AUTHORITY."

4. UNIFIL AND SARKIS ARE URGED TO FULFILL THEIR DUTY IN THE SOUTH. ONE EDITORIAL STATES THAT: "THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH NOW REQUIRES URGENT AND DRASTIC MEASURES WITHOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH THE APPLICATION OF THE SECURITY PROCESS IN THE SOUTH AS IN OTHER LEBANESE REGIONS CANNOT BE COMPLETED. HEADING THE LIST OF THESE MEASURES IS ACCELERATING THE DEPLOYMENT OF UN FORCES THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE AREA FROM WHICH ISRAELI INVASION FORCES HAVE WITHDRAWN AND THE ADOPTION OF A FINAL DECISION SETTING A DATE FOR THE DESPATCH OF THE LEBANESE ARMY TO THE SOUTH. THIS, IN ORDER TO TAKE OVER FROM UN FORCES SO THAT THE LEBANESE ARMY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ADF WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY AND WOULD IMPOSE THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEGITIMATE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT OVER SOUTH LEBANON."

5. COMMENT: WHILE EDITORIALS UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECT SYRIA'S TRUE FEELINGS ABOUT HADDAD AND HIS MEN, CALLS FOR TRYING AND PUNISHING HIM ARE PROBABLY MEANT MORE TO PRESSURE SARKIS TO STAND UP TO CHRISTIAN MILITIAS THAN TO FORCE HIM TO EVENTUALLY ARREST HADDAD. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT SYRIANS MADE A BIG SHOW OF CALLING FOR PUNISHING LEBANESE SOLDIERS RESPONSIBLE FOR FAYADIYYA INCIDENTS BUT QUIETLY LET THE MATTER DROP OR, AT LEAST, AWAIT ANOTHER DAY.
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